

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is in response to an Office Action dated March 24, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination. In the Office Action, claims 8-25 were allowed. Claims 2-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e). While Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in its entirety, further discussion of the grounds for traverse are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 2-7.

Allowance at the Examiner's earliest opportunity is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 06/25/2004

By


William W. Schaal

Reg. No. 39,018

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.84)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

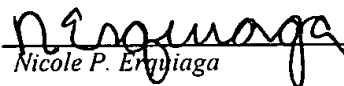
MAILING

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 06/25/2004

FACSIMILE

☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and
Trademark Office.


Nicole P. Erquiaga

06/25/2004

Date